

Program Authorization for: Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) Surface Warfare Officer Oceanography (OCEANO) Option commissioning program. STA-21 SWO (OCN Option) will facilitate the completion of a baccalaureate degree and provides upward mobility for active duty enlisted members by providing them an opportunity to obtain a commission. BUPERS-317E is the Community Manager. Program manager: Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), Officer Development (OD2), DSN 922-9437.

1. Program Authority: 10 USC 532, 2013, 6323 and 12201 to 12209.

2. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) in the annual Officer Accessions Plan.

3. Qualifications:

a. Citizenship: Applicants must be citizens of the United States. Waivers will not be granted.

b. Gender: Open to men and women.

c. Education:

(1) Applicants should pursue technical degrees (i.e., Oceanography, Hydrography, Marine Science, Meteorology, Mathematics, Physics, Geo-spatial Information Systems, Chemistry, Computer Science, Operational Analysis, Physical Sciences, or Engineering.)

(a) STA-21 SWO (OCN Option) participants must take a minimum of two semesters each of Calculus and Calculus-based Physics, receiving a passing grade of "C" or better. Calculus and Physics taken at other than the host institution must be transferable to the host institution to satisfy the STA-21 requirement.

(b) All STA-21 SWO (OCN Option) participants must complete requirements for a baccalaureate degree in 36 months. No waivers over 36 months will be approved.

(2) Participants must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

(3) Applicants must provide SAT or ACT Assessment scores. Minimum SAT or ACT score is 1000 SAT (500 Math and 500 Critical Reading) or 41 ACT combined Math/English (not less than 21 Math and 20 English).

(4) Enrollees will attend NROTC-affiliated colleges or universities and be full-time students throughout the year (including summer sessions). Enrollees must remain at the university in which they initially enrolled and will not be permitted to transfer to another university while participating in STA-21.

(5) Waivers of these educational requirements may be granted by Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (N13) with recommendation provided by NSTC on a case-by-case basis.

(6) In addition to disenrollment for academic reasons, candidates may be disenrolled because of discipline/moral problems (drug usage, civil convictions, etc.) by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (N13) as recommended by NSTC OD.

d. Age: Candidates must not have passed their 28th birthday at commissioning. Waivers beyond age 28 will not be considered.

e. Physical: In accordance with the Manual of the Medical Department, Chapter 15, minor physical defects, non-organic in nature, may be waived by NSTC OD with the recommendation of the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED). The candidate must meet the physical fitness weight and/or percentage of body fat standards at the time of application and at time of commissioning.

f. Marital status: No restrictions.

g. Time in service: No restrictions.

4. Source:

a. Applicants must be serving on active duty in the U.S. Navy or Navy Reserve including Full Time Support (FTS) personnel, or Selected Reserve (SELRES), or Navy Reservists on active duty except for those on active duty for training (ACDUTRA) to include annual training (AT) and initial active duty for training (I-ACDUTRA).

b. Disciplinary Actions. Applicants must have no record of courts-martial convictions or civilian felony convictions, disciplinary action under Article 15 Uniform Code of Military Justice, or conviction by civil court for misdemeanors except minor traffic violations during the three years preceding the date of application to STA-21. Any substantiated drug abuse while in an enlisted status is disqualifying.

5. Funding: Selectees will continue to receive full enlisted pay and allowances and remain eligible for promotion while participating. An annual education voucher will be provided to benefit each participant and paid to the educational institution attended. This voucher will be used to pay tuition, fees, and book costs only. Excess voucher payments will be remitted by the educational institution to NSTC as program manager. Students may not use Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP), Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB), or Tuition Assistance (TA).

6. Indoctrination: Before beginning full-time college studies, STA-21 participants must attend the eight week Naval Science Institute (NSI) at OTC Newport, RI to complete all required minimum professional core competencies. While attending their selected NROTC-affiliated college or university, STA-21 officer candidates will become members of the NROTC unit and drill, but they are only required to take two Naval Science leadership courses since coverage of most material is provided during NSI. Upon completion of their baccalaureate degree program, STA-21 participants will be commissioned as officers in the U.S. Navy.

7. Appointment: Ensign, USN, Surface Warfare Officer Student, Designator 1160, upon graduation from college/university. These officers are assigned to Division Officer Afloat duties on a fleet unit where they will complete Unrestricted Line (URL) experience tours in order to attain Surface Warfare qualification.

a. Officers will automatically be redesignated to 1800 upon completion of Surface Warfare qualification and at the completion of their second Division Officer tour. Future duties will be assigned per Special Duty Officer (Oceanography) needs.

b. Officers who no longer desire to execute their option to redesignate to 1800 shall submit a letter to Navy Personnel Command, Surface Officer Distribution Division (PERS-412) via Oceanography Distribution Branch (PERS 449) stating their desire

to remain a Surface Warfare Officer. The letter must be endorsed by the Officer's Commanding Officer.

8. Active duty obligation:

a. Selectees must volunteer to enlist for 6 years from the date of enrollment.

b. Selectees will incur a 5 year active duty obligation upon commissioning.


c. Those disenrollees who drop on request prior to commissioning will be obligated for 5 years of enlisted service from the date of program disenrollment.

d. Those that complete degree requirements but fail to be commissioned will be obligated for 5 years of enlisted service from the date of program disenrollment.

e. STA-21 SWO (OCEANO Option) officer candidates who fail to meet program requirements, but who desire consideration for other Unrestricted Line officer opportunities may contact the Oceanography Officer Community Manager for information regarding conversion to the STA-21 Core program subject to the requirements of the SWO (OCN Option) Program. All degree requirements must be complete within 36 months. No waivers over 36 months will be approved.

f. Additional obligated service may be incurred as a result of special training received following commissioning.

Approved:


C. J. LOGAN, CAPT, USN
Acting Director, Manpower, Personnel, Training
and Education Policy Division (N13)

Date:

6-30-08